

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 OSLO 03168 01 OF 02 071452Z
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 OSLO 3168

FOR EUR MR. VEST

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP, PFOR, NATO, NO
SUBJECT: FOREIGN MINISTER FRYDENLUND'S WASHINGTON VISIT - JULY 11-12

REF: OSLO 3035

1. THE SETTING. FOREIGN MINISTER FRYDENLUND WILL ARRIVE IN WASHINGTON TWO SHORT MONTHS BEFORE THE SEPTEMBER 12 NATIONAL ELECTIONS. ALTHOUGH HIS PARLIAMENTARY SEAT IS NOT IN JEOPARDY, HIS FOREIGN POLICY LEADERSHIP COULD COME UNDER CLOSE SCRUTINY BY THE ELECTORATE AND LABOR PARTY CHIEFS IN THE NEXT 60 DAYS BECAUSE SOVIET-NORWEGIAN RELATIONS ARE EMERGING AS ONE OF THE CLEARER NATIONAL ISSUES. THEREFORE, THE MINISTER CLEARLY VALUES HIS VISIT NOT ONLY FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO LISTEN TO AMERICAN VIEWS ON IMPORTANT TOPICS EXPRESSED BY U.S. LEADERS BUT ALSO TO BE SEEN BY THE PUBLIC AS CONSULTING WITH NORWAY'S CLOSEST FRIEND AND ALLY, THE OTHER SUPERPOWER. THE FACT THAT JULY IS THE MONTH WHEN VACATIONING NORWEGIANS STATISTICALLY READ MORE NEWSPAPERS, LISTEN TO MORE RADIO AND WATCH MORE TV LONGER, MAY ALSO HAVE INFLUENCED THE VISIT'S TIMING.

2. THE MAN. FRYDENLUND IS 50 YEARS OLD, A FORMER FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICER WHO TOOK UP POLITICS AFTER A 15 YEAR DIPLOMATIC CAREER DURING WHICH HE SERVED IN BONN AND BRUSSELS
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 OSLO 03168 01 OF 02 071452Z

AND AS PRIVATE SECRETARY TO FORMER FOREIGN MINISTER HALVARD LANGE. HE WAS ELECTED TO THE PARLIAMENT IN 1969 WHERE HE QUICKLY BECAME THE VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE, AS WELL AS CHAIRMAN OF THE LABOR PARTY'S INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE. HE REPRESENTS THE MODERATE CENTER OF HIS PARTY. THE FOREIGN MINISTER IS A CLOSE PERSONAL FRIEND AND COLLEAGUE OF PRIME MINISTER NORDLI.

FRYDENLUND IS A CONFIRMED ATLANTICIST (AND IN FACT SERVED ONE TERM AS HONORARY PRESIDENT OF THE NORTH ATLANTIC ASSEMBLY) WHO IS ALSO KEENLY INTERESTED IN HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE. HE HAS NOT BEEN RELUCTANT TO ASSUME A LEADERSHIP ROLE IN ALLIANCE AFFAIRS AND WAS INSTRUMENTAL IN BRINGING THE UK AND ICELAND TOWARDS A PEACEFUL RESOLUTION OF THE COD WAR. FOREIGN MINISTER FRYDENLUND IS A VERY REFLECTIVE MAN WHOSE RATHER HEAVY, RELUCTANT INITIAL BUSINESS MANNER (PARTICULARLY WHEN SPEAKING ENGLISH) BELIES A KEEN MIND WITH A DEFINITE PRACTICAL POLITICAL BENT AND A GOOD SENSE OF HUMOR. HE IS SINCERELY DEVOTED TO THE CAUSE OF GAINING BROADER RICH COUNTRY SUPPORT FOR THE POORER, A CAUSE WHICH SOMETIMES COMPETES DISPROPORTIONATELY FOR HIS ATTENTION WITH LESS IDEOLOGICALLY POTENT CONCERNS SUCH AS SVALBARD, AND THE WHOLE EMBROGLIO OF NORTHERN PROBLEMS.

3. THE POLITICAN AND BUREAUCRAT. FRYDENLUND'S PREDILECTION FOR THE NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE HAS ALLOWED HIS THEORETICAL SUBORDINATE, THE FLAMBOYANT LOS MINISTER JENS EVENSEN, TO CARVE OUT AN IMPORTANT PIECE OF EAST-WEST FOREIGN POLICY TURF FOR HIMSELF AND TO TRY TO UPSTAGE FRYDENLUND ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS. IN MANY WAYS, EVENSEN, WITH HIS WELL DEVELOPED PR SENSE, EXTROVERTED PERSONALITY AND BUREAUCRATIC FINGERSPRITZENGEFUHL IS THE COUNTERPOINT TO FRYDENLUND WHOM HE WOULD LIKE TO REPLACE. THE PERPETETIC LOS NEGOTIATOR HAS RECENTLY RETURNED

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 OSLO 03168 01 OF 02 071452Z

FROM MOSCOW WITH AN INITIALED FISHERIES AGREEMENT THAT ON THE FACE OF THE MAP GIVES MUCH MORE TO THE SOVIETS THAN TO NORWAY. IT HAS BECOME A SUBJECT OF CONSIDERABLE POLITICAL AND POPULAR DEBATE WHICH IS TENDING TO POLARIZE THE PARTIES, HAS TENDED TO PUSH THE FOREIGN MINISTER FROM STAGE CENTER AND HAS RAISED SOME QUESTIONS ABOUT FRYDENLUND'S CONTROL OVER A VITAL MATTER OF NORWEGIAN FOREIGN POLICY; I.E., RELATIONS WITH THE SOVIET UNION.

4. THE TOPICS. FRYDENLUND'S PERSONAL SECRETARY HAS INFORMED US THAT THE FOREIGN MINISTER WILL BE INTERESTED IN DISCUSSING THE FOLLOWING TOPICS DURING HIS VISIT. SOVIET-U.S. RELATIONS, SOVIET-NORWEGIAN RELATIONS, NORTH-SOUTH RELATIONS, U.S. POLICY TOWARDS SOUTH AFRICA AND THE PRC.

5. SOVIET-U.S. RELATIONS. FRYDENLUND WILL BE INTERESTED IN HEARING FROM U.S. POLICY MAKERS HOW WASHINGTON VIEWS ITS PRESENT RELATIONSHIP WITH MOSCOW AND HOW THEY VIEW THE DEVELOPING TRENDS. THE IMPACT OF THE USG'S HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVES, AN AREA IN WHICH FRYDENLUND PERSONALLY AND NORWAY TRADITIONALLY HAS A KEEN CONCERN, ON INTER ALIA SALT, MBFR AND CSCE WILL BE A PRIME SUBJECT ON THE

FOREIGN MINISTER'S LIST.

NORWAY'S OWN RELATIONSHIP WITH THE SOVIET UNION IS BEGINNING TO INVOLVE HARD SUBJECTS, SUCH AS THE BARENTS SEA, EVOKING TOUGH RESPONSES AND MORE INFLEXIBLE POSITIONS WHICH NORWAY HAS LARGELY BEEN SPARED IN THE PAST. THEY, THEREFORE, ARE UNDERSTANDING MORE AND MORE HOW THEIR OWN RELATIONSHIP TO THE SOVIET UNION DEPENDS ON THE TEMPERATURE OF THE LARGER SUPERPOWER RELATIONSHIP FOR ITS DIRECTION, ITS SPEED AND ITS MOMENTUM.

6. SOVIET-NORWEGIAN RELATIONS. NORWAY'S RELATIONSHIP WITH THE SOVIET UNION HAS DETERIORATED OVER THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS AS TOPICS OF REAL AND DIFFERENT INTERESTS TO BOTH
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 OSLO 03168 01 OF 02 071452Z

COUNTRIES HAVE ARISEN. IN THE BARENTS SEA CONTINENTAL SHELF DEMARCATION LINE NEGOTIATIONS, BOTH COUNTRIES HAVE GENUINE DIFFERENCES OF OPINION, THE NORWEGIAN PUBLIC ATTITUDE TOWARDS THE USSR HAS ALSO WORSENERED BECAUSE OF SOVIET ATTEMPTS TO ESTABLISH A SVALBARD CONDOMINIUM, SOVIET ESPIONAGE ACTIVITIES IN NORWAY, SOVIET HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSE AND RUSSIA'S POOR PERFORMANCE AFTER HELSINKI AND HARD LINE AT THE BELGRADE CSCE CONFERENCE.

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PAGE 01 OSLO 03168 02 OF 02 071459Z
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 OSLO 3168

FOR EUR MR. VEST

7. THE GON SEES REDUCED TENSIONS WITH THE SOVIETS AND IMPROVED EAST-WEST RELATIONS BUT IS COMING TO UNDERSTAND

THE DIFFICULTIES AND COSTS INHERENT IN MAINTAINING
THE BALANCE BETWEEN LOW TENSION AND SELF INTEREST AND
INDEPENDENCE.

8. FREYDENLUND WOULD WELCOME ASSURANCES FROM US OF CON-
TINUED, STRONG U.S. SUPPORT FOR NORWAY AND UNDERSTANDING
FOR THE PROBLEMS THE GON IS ENCOUNTERING INCREASINGLY IN
ITS DEALINGS WITH MOSCOW. HE SHOULD BE LEFT IN NO DOUBT,
HOWEVER, THAT WE HAVE NO INTENTION OF INTRUDING IN THE
AFFAIRS OF THE DELICATE NORTHERN AREAS AND IN FACT ARE OVER ALL
PLEASED WITH THE MANNER IN WHICH NORWAY IS
ASSERTING ITS SOVERIEGN RIGHTS AND PROTECTING VITAL
ALLIANCE INTERESTS.

9. IN THIS CONNECTION, IT WOULD BE VERY USEFUL IF
DAGFINN STENSETH, A MEMBER OF FRYDENLUND'S PARTY AND
THE MINISTRY'S RESIDENT SOVIET EXPERT, COULD BE BROUGHT
TOGETHER WITH HIS S/P COUNTERPARTS.

10. NORTH-SOUTH RELATIONS. NORWAY HAS A LONG STANDING INTEREST
IN THE NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE WHICH FRYDENLUND PERSONALLY ADVANCES
AT EVERY OPPORTUNITY, AND WILL DOUBTLESS WISH TO DISCUSS ALONG WITH
NORWAY'S SUPPORT OF A COMMON FUND TO WHICH IT PLEDGED
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PAGE 02 OSLO 03168 02 OF 02 071459Z

\$25 MILLION DURING THE UNCTAD CONFERENCE IN NAIROBI. AS A
SMALL, PREGRESSIVE, SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC, INDUSTRIAL NATION,
NORWAY CONSIDERS ITSELF A BRIDGEBUILDER WITH THE THIRD WORLD
AND HAS INFLUENCE THERE OUT OF PROPORTION TO ITS SIZE.
NORWAY IS INCREASING FOREIGN AID TO 1 PERCENT OF GNP IN 1978 AND
TO 1.3 PERCENT IN 1981 AND CUSTOMARILY ADOPTS A FORTHCOMING STANCE
TOWARDS DEVELOPING COUNTRY ECONOMIC ASPIRATIONS. IT WAS
ENCOURAGED BY GAINS MADE AT THE CONCLUDING MINISTERIAL CIEC
MEETING AND BY GREATER U.S. WILLINGNESS AT THAT MEETING TO
ACCOMMODATE DEVELOPING COUNTRY VIEWS, BUT WOULD STILL LIKE
TO SEE MORE PROGRESS IN THIS DIRECTION AND, ESPECIALLY, IN
THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A COMMON FUND. ALTHOUGH NORWAY WORKS
CLOSELY WITH US ON NORTH-SOUTH ISSUES, WE HAVE OCCASIONALLY
FOUND OBSTRUCTIVE AND DISRUPTIVE OF DEVELOPED COUNTRY UNITY
NORWAY'S TENDENCY TO GET TOO FAR IN FRONT OF OTHER OECD
MEMBERS ON THESE ISSUES. NORWAY'S NORTH-SOUTH POLICIES,
HOWEVER, HAVE STRONG IDEOLOGICAL SUPPORT AT HOME, PARTICULARLY
IN THE LABOR PARTY.

12. FRYDENLUND WILL ALSO UNDOUBTEDLY MENTION NORWAY'S
STRONGLY-HELD OPPOSITION TO ANY U.S. OIL CARGO PREFERENCE
LEGISLATION. NORWAY, WITH ITS LARGE INDEPENDENT TANKER
FLEET, CONSIDERS SUCH U.S. LEGISLATION INIMICAL TO FREE
TRADE AND LIKELY TO LEAD TO WIDESPREAD EMULATION BY OTHERS
TO THE DISADVANTAGE OF NORWEGIAN SHIPPING. WHILE THESE VIEWS

ARE WELL KNOWN AND HAVE BEEN FULLY AIRED IN WASHINGTON, FRYDENLUND WILL NEED FOR DOMESTIC POLITICAL REASONS TO SAY THAT HE HAS MENTIONED THEM IN WASHINGTON.

13. SOUTH AFRICA AND THE PRC. TWO OTHER SUBJECTS WHICH FRYDENLUND MAY RAISE ARE U.S. POLICY TOWARDS SOUTH AFRICA AND U.S. RELATIONS WITH THE PRC.

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PAGE 03 OSLO 03168 02 OF 02 071459Z

14. SOUTH AFRICA. FRYDENLUND WILL PRIMARILY BE INTERESTED IN HEARING U.S. VIEWS ON SOUTH AFRICA ESPECIALLY AFTER THE SECRETARY'S RECENT ADDRESS ON THE SUBJECT. NORWAY' OWN POSITION IS TO SUPPORT THE BLACK MILITANT MOVEMENT, AND TO INCREASE PRESSURE ON THE GOVERNMENT OF SOUTH AFRICA AT THE UN AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL FORA, AT THE SAME TIME NOTING A PRIVATELY ORGANIZED CONSUMER BOYCOTT AGAINST SOUTH AFRICAN GOODS AND HELPING TO COORDINATE LIMITED UNION AND PUBLIC SUBSCRIPTION DONATIONS TO ELEMENTS OF THE SOUTH AFRICA LIBERATION MOVEMENT. THE LABOR MOVEMENT AND GON CAMPAIGN HAS BROAD SYMPATHY AND SUPPORT IN NORWAY.

15. THE PRC. THE FOREIGN MINISTER WOULD BE VERY INTERESTED IN LISTENING TO AN ANALYSIS OF THE PRESENT SITUATION IN CHINA AND TO OUR PROGNOSIS FOR FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS IN THE PEKING-WASHINGTON RELATIONSHIP, PARTICULARLY IN VIEW OF THE SECRETARY'S UPCOMING TRIP.

16. THE FOREIGN MINISTER'S PARTY. FRYDENLUND WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY HIS PERSONAL SECRETARY BJORN SKOGMO; MARTIN HUSLID, MFA DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR PLANS AND DAGFIN STENSETH, MFA OFFICE DIRECTOR FOR POLICY PLANS. BIO SUMMARIES FOLLOW SEPTTEL.
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